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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/26/2017

TAGS: PREL PGOV EG KN

SUBJECT: FM ABOUL GHEIT ON GOE MEETING WITH NORTH KOREAN

PRESIDENT KIM YOUNG NAM

Classified By: Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)

(C) In a July 26 meeting with the Ambassador, Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit confirmed media reports that the Egyptians are currently hosting North Korean President Kim Young Nam, and that President Mubarak would host a dinner in his honor. Ambassador noted that it was a rare gesture of courtesy for Mubarak to host a dinner. Aboul Gheit responded that Mubarak has visited North Korea at least six times, and expounded on North Korea's support of Egypt during the 1973 war with Israel, which included sending fighter jets and pilots to "fight side by side Egyptians." This, he said, could not be forgotten. Ambassador asked if there would be any substance to the meeting; Aboul Gheit said, apparently in jest, that perhaps Egypt would purchase missiles and other military equipment from North Korea. Ambassador responded that perhaps Aboul Gheit could discuss human rights issues with Nam, as well as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (which Aboul Ghait had raised previously in the meeting in connection with Israel).

RICCIARDONE